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A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

IT'S IUR *VS.* THE "M.I.B."—AND IUR "WINS"

THREE UFOS SELECTED FROM 143 U.S. CASES

UFOS *VS.* ANGELS *VS.* GHOSTS

UPDATE: GSW *VS.* CIA

UFOS OVER HIGH SECURITY WEAPONS BASE?

POLICEMAN LOSES JOB OVER UFO CHASE

NEW FORMAT: 16 PAGES

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EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

NEW FORMAT

With this issue we initiate a new, more comprehensive way of keeping our readers current with the UFO scene. We have become aware of the need to emphasize the broad *scope* of the UFO phenomenon, which touches and affects many areas of human concern. Over the past quarter century and more, the UFO phenomenon (which encompasses all that is associated with the sighting and reporting of—and emotional reactions to—unexplained UFO "events") has subtly infiltrated our mass consciousness. The Gallup Poll results alone attest to this. The awareness of the general public to the concept of the UFO is strikingly high.

Our new format reflects the widespread impact on society of the UFO phenomenon. It has two major advantages: one, it serves to organize and integrate UFO events and news under broad themes—technology, religion, the law, the military, the government, natural and life sciences, the media, human behavior, UFO researchers and organizations, and so on. Far more importantly, however, the new format itself demonstrates what has long been known to students of the subject; the UFO theme affects—and is an indicator of—those many diverse areas of human endeavor. The UFO skeptic has largely been guilty of reducing the importance of this multifaceted field to a single question: do UFOs equate to extraterrestrial spaceships—*or*—are they "nonsense"? Our new format will hopefully illuminate the fact that the UFO phenomenon is not only of scientific interest but of sociological and political importance as well . . . as future historians will in due time readily recognize. We hope that you, the reader, will find it effective in presenting the UFO phenomenon in many new perspectives.

J. Allen Hynek

AUSTRALIA: Albury, March 29. Two farmers, Christopher Kloppenborg, 25, and his brother Geoffrey, 22, were out mustering the sheep at 7:30 AM when they spotted a stationary object the apparent size of a small hayshed one mile away. The object was shaped like a silvery "short cigar" with black shapes along its side and held motionless very low over the hills. The cigar could be seen casting a shadow on the side of a tree-lined hill. The brothers watched the object through binoculars and for 5 to 8 minutes. Then Geoffrey went back for a camera from their homestead. While he was gone, Christopher saw a second object, much smaller and stingray-shaped, come over the top of the hills to his right. Sweeping in a slow arc, it joined the first one and both headed east over the bush country at a very rapid speed. When Geoffrey returned too late with the camera, he acknowledged that he, too, had seen the second smaller object heading for the large one from his different vantage point.

SOURCE: The HERALD, Melbourne, Australia, April 8, 1978.

motionless, the cigar shot upwards out of sight into the clear sky at a "fantastic speed".

SOURCE: Direct communication by witness.

ITALY: Rome, April 27. Two witnesses watched this small green object eject out of the larger green one near Ciampino Airport. The

strange sight moved smoothly from directly overhead to about 45 degrees in 15 minutes at 11:45 as seen against a foggy sky.

SOURCE: Massimo Pigliucci

MEXICO: near Cuajimolpa, May 15. Nineteen-year old Ignacio Sanchez Munoz was walking home from his restaurant job in Obregon along a highway. Against a partially cloudy sky (time unknown) he spotted what appeared to be a multicolored luminous cube, mostly blue, hovering in one spot. Estimated to be 4 by 4 by 4 meters in size, the cube emitted a yellow beam and a second cube of 1 meter dimensions. Munoz heard only a small buzzing sound, at first, but then found himself mentally communicating with it. The cube allegedly did not contain beings but served to herald the arrival of people who look the same as us. The conversation took place over an hour's period, at the close of which Munoz was told "Soon we shall return to chat with you" (presumably in Spanish, his native tongue).

SOURCE: Direct communication; if additional information becomes available, IUR will present it here.

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings obtained from around the world. While we cannot exert the same degree of control over these cases as domestic ones, it is at least of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for the phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

DENMARK: SUFOI (Skandinavisk UFO Information) has appraised IUR of its current Project UFOdata efforts. Under the guidance of Per Andersen, SUFOI's advisor on data processing, the group is undertaking a statistical analysis of the 6000 UFO sightings in their files, gathered since 1957. SUFOI informs us that we can watch for UFO frequency tables, 2- and 3-variable cross-tabulations, histograms, chi-square tests and such as gleaned electronically from their report collection.

IRELAND: Dublin, March 31. A young man and a dog were out in a field at 8:30 PM when a silver cigar shape of 2:1 ratio was sighted hovering about 45 degrees above the horizon. An unusual feature occurred 20 times in 20 minutes: a doorway on the side would open, releasing a red light—then the door closed. The light returned to the cigar and the door would open, readmitting it. After ten more minutes of remaining

NORWAY: A number of Nordic UFO organizations held a congress on May 13-14 in Tonsberg, Norway for the purpose of improving inter-group communications. The result was the formation of a parent group called "Nordic UFO Groups", consisting of the following:

DUFOC—Danish UFO Center, Denmark
FI—Foreign Science Information, Denmark
FUFOS—Free UFO Study, Denmark
GICOFF—Gothenburgs Information Center for UFOs, Sweden
NUFOC—Norwegian UFO Center, Norway
Project URD—UFO Report and Data System, Sweden
Riksorganisationen UFO-Sverige—National Organization UFO, Sweden
SUFOI—Scandinavian UFO Information, Denmark

In the second half of this year, the new parent group will issue a "Nordic UFO Newsletter", designed primarily to inform organizations outside the Nordic countries about the UFO situation there.

POLAND: 60 km. from Lublin, May 17. A 71-year old farmer was driving his horse-drawn carriage through a wooded area about 8 AM. By the roadside were two, possibly as many as four, 5-foot tall men wearing tightly fitting black "diver suits" which were completely smooth and devoid of buttons or pockets. The men had green faces, slanting eyes and webbed fingers, moved in a jumping motion and spoke inarticulately. Still, they invited him into their "bus-shaped" white rectangular vehicle hovering nearby. The UFO was described as 5 by 3 by 2½ meters and featured four "barrels" with straight and helical-shaped "tubes" spinning rapidly within the barrels.

The farmer described the interior as a completely black colored room outfitted only in benches. He was examined by an apparatus which he likened to an X-ray machine. He was also invited to share in the transparent substance eaten by the UFOnauts, but he declined.

The farmer returned to the site with some villagers and found rectangular footprints in the muddy road bank. Reportedly, another villager watched an "airplane" hovering over a grainery around the same time as the farmer's adventure which flew off with a "cottage-shaking" noise.

SOURCE: KURIER POLSKI (a Polish newspaper) via John Brent Musgrave and Jo Ann Silvis. Later articles in the same paper claim that the farmer probably saw a helicopter and crew.

THREE UFOS SELECTED FROM 143 U.S. CASES

140 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.
Refer to the monthly "Profile" feature for complete evaluations.

U.S. SIGHTINGS

HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S: UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated reasons, they are not worthy of the closest scrutiny. Note: UFOs (and IFOs) can fail to appear on radar for a wide variety of reasons.

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
3-7-1	CE I/implied radar	5-15-78	1AM	3-4 min.	2	Wewahitchka, FL

The petroleum tugboat "Lisa C" was moving 10-12 knots southbound on the winding Apalachicola River about 5-6 miles north of Wewahitchka (50.5 *river* miles from Apalachicola, FL) in a decidedly rural area of Florida. The 24-year old pilot spotted a domed disc, the apparent size of the moon, steep in the SW sky. The disc was surrounded by what appeared to be 8 to 10 illuminated windows, 4-foot square, colored frosty pink. The whole river bank was lit up as if by moonlight. The pilot was so distracted by the sight that he almost missed the bend in the river. The disc then settled down behind the trees but the light could still be seen; the boat pilot felt that the object was set back about 150 feet into the woods, and was on the order of 30 to 50 feet in size. The pilot went to get another sailor who saw it only through the trees. The location of the site was marked by a log jam in the river; once the boat was 15 minutes away from the site, the ship's radar (displaying returns from both banks) showed a strong return from something appearing over the dark image of the river bend behind them. The image stopped momentarily, then streaked off of the screen in 2 seconds.

COMMENTS: Checks were made with the Panama City Coast Guard, Tindell and Eglin Air Force Bases, the Jacksonville FAA and the Atlanta Air Route Traffic Control Center without obtaining additional word on the event. The case does not qualify as a true Radar/Visual, alas, as the object was not seen visually at the same time as "it" was viewed on radar. It is of interest to note the proximity in time and location to the Radar/Visual sighting in Ocala, Florida, on May 14 at 10:30 PM chronicled in last month's IUR. To be on the safe side, IUR checked with several advertising plane companies in the area, but none of them were operating that late in such a rural area. The radar rig was described as a $10,000 Decca unit with a ½-mile display, 30 r.p.m. antenna sweep rate, 300-foot ceiling and a maximum 48-mile range. The radar antenna was positioned 25 feet above the water; the trees on both banks stood about 50 to 75 feet tall. Discussions with the ship's captain (asleep during the sighting) revealed that he had watched a radar target following them earlier in the evening for 20 miles; this was not seen visually by him, though.

3-7-54	NL	5-30-78	11 PM	3-5 sec.	2	Tulsa, OK

Two 24-year old witnesses were stargazing with a telescope 5 miles east of Tulsa when they watched 4 grey-white ovals in a fixed formation pass silently in a straight line from around 60 degrees in the SW straight overhead to a point 45 degrees above the NE horizon whee they were lost in the trees. Each oval was about the size of the moon; the whole sword-like formation was about 30 degrees long. Each oval flew at a 45-degree angle to the direction of travel. They were not at all bright against the clear sky overhead; the witnesses thought the objects were solid reflecting the available city light.

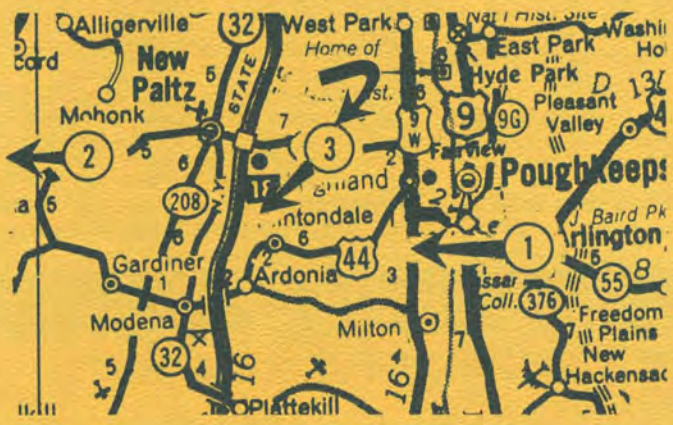
COMMENTS: Not noted by nearby Tulsa International

(cont.)

Airport; no other sightings reported to local police or KVOO radio. The witnesses called the Tulsa airport tower immediately after the transit of the UFOs; the tower personnel briefly operated the runway landing lights but the witnesses could not see them outdoors. There were searchlights playing on clouds in the east but these were seen in addition to the UFOs and said to look different.

3-7-121 CE I 6-10-78 9:30 PM 4-5 min. 6 New Paltz, NY

A dark, wedge shaped form with a square formation of white lights in the back and a triangular formation of red and white lights in the front, paced two students, 21 and 19, as they drove eastbound on Rt. 299. It turned south toward them and crossed their car ; one student ran toward the form, getting underneath it. He said that it was as large in angular size as his outstretched hand at arms length over his head. The other witness who stayed by the car said it was at least 5 times the moon's diameter from her vantage point. Then it "shot off" toward the SW horizon in a few seconds time, slowing down at the end before disappearing. No noise was ever heard; seen against a clear sky.



A possible aircraft? If so, it was likely a conspicuous one, as independent witnesses were located by the original witnesses who claim to have seen something conforming to the same description. At 8:45 PM, a couple at position #1 on the map saw something reportedly of the same description heading westbound. Another witness at location #2 whom IUR contacted offered a very similar description: heading westbound at 9:00-9:15 PM, including a conspicuous angular size [¾ degree of arc], an initially slow speed, shooting off at high speed further west and being in view for about 5 minutes. Position #3 is that of the original witnesses at 9:30-10:00 PM; if this was the same UFO pacing them eastbound, it would have had to have curved around back toward New Paltz. Sketches are still pending.

UFO IMPACT:
GOVERNMENT/MILITARY

CASE 3-7-130: THREE UFOS OVER HIGH SECURITY MILITARY BASE?

HINT: The sightings aren't half as interesting as the means by which we found out about them . . .

Scenario: the large portion of New Jersey territory marked off on the road map belongs to Naval Weapons Station Earle, a special guarded weapons storage area south of Colts Neck, guarded 24 hours a day by sentries. Just three-quarters of a mile away from the sentries is Highway 34 which bisects the station's property; car horns can be heard easily. To the north is the small Colts Neck airport and New York City is just 30 miles away as the crow flies. Otherwise, the area is decidedly rural and wooded. It was in just this setting that three groups of sentries witnessed three separate and apparently dissimilar UFO events, all within ten hours time on the 11th of June.

2:35 AM: Pvt. I. Corral, 17, and Cpl. Michael E. Ford were patrolling the eastern fence line when they observed what Corral described as a vaguely-outlined rectangle of light, fluorescent white in color and slightly larger in size than the moon (also visible in the east) yet dimmer. Extending from this form was a long irregular dirty white smoke trail. Seen in the southern sky about 30 to 45 degrees up, the stange object struck Corral as being about 300 meters (990 feet) above Tower Tango 7. It then zigzagged very slowly southbound for 5 minutes; in the last 20 seconds or so, it seemed to gain altitude. Ford agreed with these observations, noting that the light disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared; the light reminded Ford of "magnesium burning." The trail continued to be visible for some time, however, after the main light had vanished. Ford's superior officer later described him as very reliable, "the best corporal I've known in 8 years."

7:30-8:00 PM: PFC Thomas Donnelly, 21, and PFC Dion L. Bush spotted what looked a "small aircraft" or "helicopter" with a white light, a red light and one blue light fly from north to south past Tower 8. The flying object seemed strange to them, however, because they heard no noise and it seemed to fly faster and look larger than the usual aircraft in the area. Its flight path was one of slight ascent, about 45 degrees up across their field of view. Then in 4 or 5 seconds, the object appeared to drop straight down into the woods; total duration—15 seconds. Looking through the trees, both men continued to see the lights for the next ten minutes, even when they walked to "Zone 21". Donnelly guessed it was down 500 yards away, while Bush placed it out 4 or 5 miles. When the sentries notified their ACC (Acting Command Center), other guards were dispatched to the scene, but found nothing. There is a helicopter pad 200 yards away from where the men were standing, but nothing had landed there.

11:28 PM: After hearing the report of the last two sentries, Gunnery Sgt. Brininger, in the company of PFC Johnny Johnson, 22, viewed the third and last UFO candidate of the night. Standing outside on an 80-foot tower, the two men watched a distinctly-outlined illuminated white ball with a short conical tail behind it approaching from the southern horizon. Within 5 seconds, the object had flown in a straight path to a point 20-30 degrees up in the west. Sgt. Brininger estimated that the "ice cream cone" was as close as 300 feet away, 200 feet up, flying parallel to the fence line. Watching with "open mouths", the sergeant swung a standard shipboard spotlight around and

hit it just as it had reached the western position. At this point, the two sentries watched it abruptly change course from its rapid horizontal flight, turning away from them and flying due *west* and climbing. Brininger said it made a 90-degree turn while Johnson felt it curved into the west. The resulting effect was one of motion along their line of sight, with the trail appearing to shorten as the object turned, leaving only a receding circular end-on view of the object. The center looked dark with only the circular rim now lit. Brininger placed the angular size of the cone at ½ the moon's diameter (¼ degree of arc); Johnson placed it around 1/8 to ¼ (1/16 to 1/8 of a degree). Total duration: 8-10 seconds. Sentries in the south tower were facing east and did not see the silent object.

IUR FOLLOWUP

This is the classic kind of case in the UFO literature that inevitably gives rise to speculation about "interest" exhibited by UFOs in surveying our military installations; in this case, a high security weapons storage area. The fact that military personnel, (occupationally revered by UFOlogy) judged the first UFO, for example, as being almost within "Close Encounter" range above the weapons storage area is particularly provocative. So it is unmistakably unsettling that IUR has succeeded in positively identifying the first sighting for what it really was: a trimethyl aluminum test cloud launched into the upper atmosphere by a Nike-Apache missile from several states.

Thus, the most mystifying of the three incidents drops out of contention for true anomaly status, because the appearance and behavior of the other two are more ascribable to an aircraft and a meteor, respectively. The airspace of the Earle station is not restricted and flights from nearby Colts Neck Airport commonly fly over the property. According to the airport personnel, a simulated forced landing exercise would fulfill the behavior of the second, and least spectacular, event. If the third event was simply a fireball with a short tail, the extinction of the fireball would result in a shortening of the "tail" which would be interpreted as changing aspects of the UFO while "turning". Even Brininger noted that the turn to the west, fortuitously along his line of vision, may have merely been gradual extinction. It should be noted that checks with the Smithsonian Short Lived Phenomena group, the local airport flight log and the State Police log revealed no additional witnesses to the third event which one would expect to find if it was a spectacular fireball; still, none of the local agencies expressed awareness of the test cloud from the night before, either.

THE SOURCE

How did IUR learn of this military base event? Capt. G. A. Tromley was intrigued by Sgt. Brininger's account and asked Col. Belcher, his C.O. what to do about it. Tromley noted that they were influenced by the TV show "Project UFO", and all thought that "Blue Book" or some variation was still active. Seeking advice, they contacted a Major Vay at the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington. He noted that he couldn't be of service but, to cover himself, had a brief, one-page report prepared for file purposes. Similarly, Belcher recommended that a file be kept on the incident for future reference at the New Jersey station (of which IUR has a copy). Tromley then related the events to a Capt. Heigl and a Lt. Redding, who in turn asked the executive officer of the station at that time, Commander Heck, how to proceed. The commander broke out orders for this type of incident which directed them to call the Duty Officer of the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon. Exciting? Guess what the Duty Officer directed them to do? "Contact the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois."

Wallops Island, Virginia by NASA at *2:32 AM*. The cloud, viewed by the sentries in the southern sky, was actually tens of miles above the eastern seaboard and glowing visibly for

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

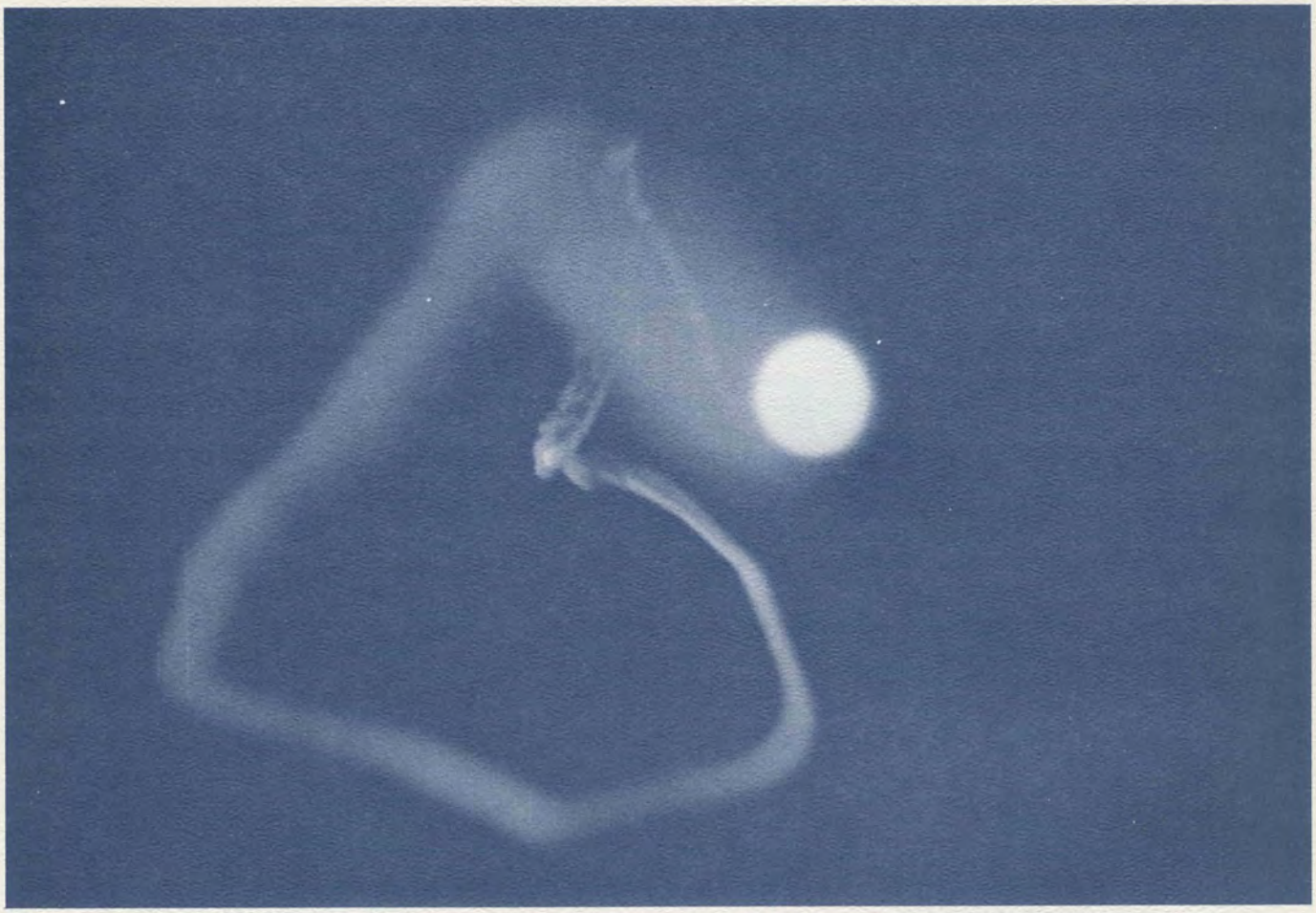
1) May people believe there is a universal UFO cover-up of military UFO encounters, akin to the Air Force's AFR 200-2, wherein such encounters are tightly channeled to a central government agency which processes and acts upon them. Neither "NavSea" nor the NMCC took any action on this case, except to forward it to a civilian UFO group. similarly, the Navy's report filed on last issue's Ocala, Florida case is publicly accessible and full cooperation with the personnel on that base was enjoyed by IUR. While the evidence that the U.S. government has not rendered public all of its information on UFOs, as has been amply demonstrated by the recent use of the Freedom of Information Act, such episodes are food for thought when the issue of government cover-up is raised.*

2) Many people also believe that the U.S. government and military are in a far better position to deal with the analysis of UFO sightings than the civilian UFO groups. The military did not endeavor to identify what was apparently monitoring them within 1000 feet. It was left up to IUR to identify the nature of the test cloud that gave rise to the first sighting.

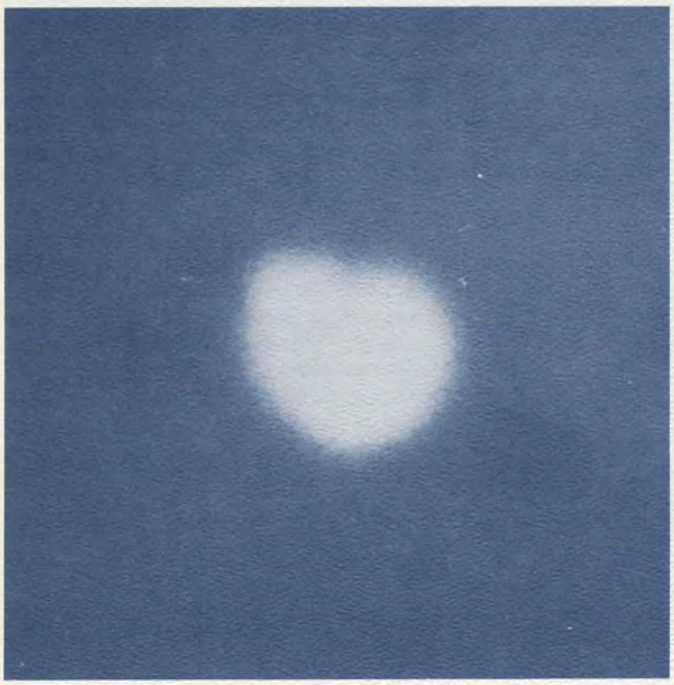
3) Finally, the case serves again to caution us against *automatic* attribution of value to:

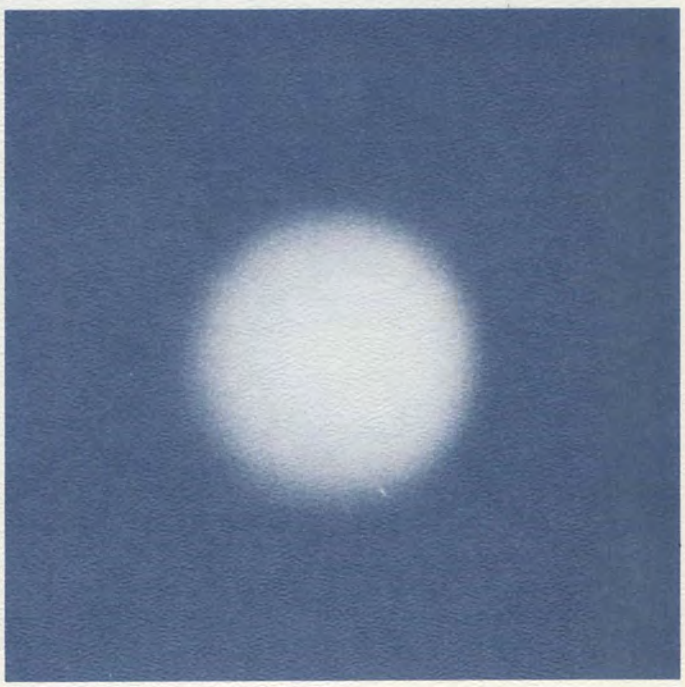
—multiple witnesses
—military personnel as witnesses (or any occupation)
—estimation of distance, especially at night
—sighting of "UFOs" over military bases in any deliberations of UFO sightings.

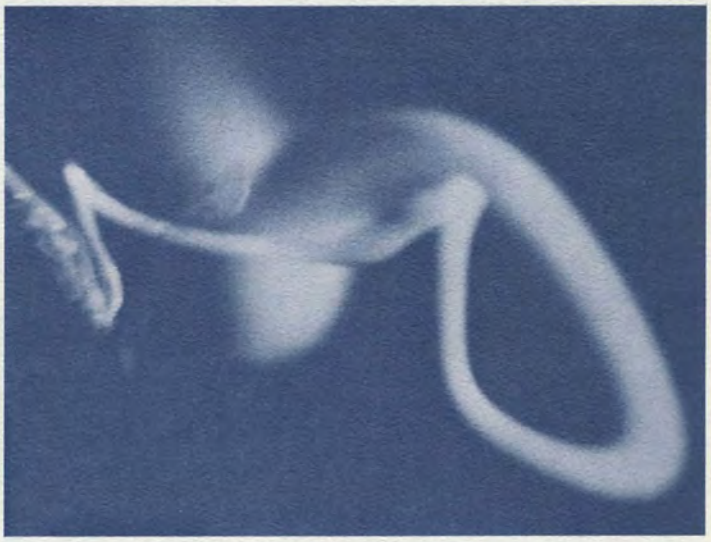
* This is an appropriate time to take note that hundreds of IUR's reporting witnesses call Air Force bases to report their sightings, only to be dismissed without any investigation (or M.I.B.-style harassment).

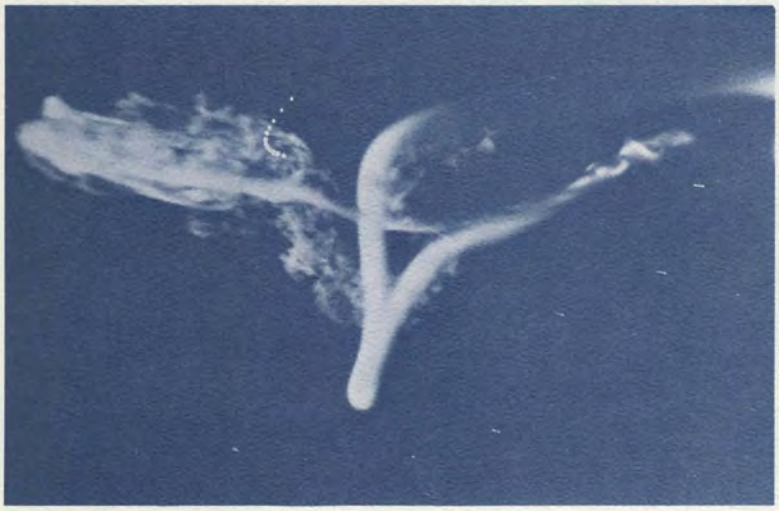


UFOS ?









NO, SIMPLY DIFFERENT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SAME THING --- GLOWING SODIUM AND BARIUM TEST CLOUDS LAUNCHED HIGH INTO THE EARTH's UPPER ATMOSPHERE. THE FORM IN THE FIRST PHOTO IS PROBABLY SIMILAR TO THE ONE SEEN BY THE SENTRIES AT THE NAVAL STATION. THE ORIGINAL PHOTOS ARE VIVIDLY COLORFUL AND WERE PROVIDED BY NASA/WALLOPS ISLAND, VA.

UPDATE ON THE GROUND SAUCER WATCH (GSW) LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CIA

W. Todd Zechel, Director of Research for GSW and Director of CAUS, traveled to Washington, D.C., Friday, July 7th, to participate in a conference with the U.S. Attorney, the CIA's attorney and GSW's attorney to discuss the status of GSW's FOIA suit against the CIA, which resulted in the CIA refusing to disclose the contents of five (5) UFO-related documents which GSW Director William Spaulding had requested, claiming the documents were still classified after some twenty years had passed and could not be declassified.

At 9 AM, an informal conference was convened in the U.S. Attorney's office. In attendance were Mr. Bill Briggs, the U.S. Attorney, Mr. Long, attorney for the CIA, Mr. Peter Gersten, attorney for GSW, and Mr. Zechel.

During the informal session, the U.S. Attorney, counsel for the defendant (CIA), expressed a reluctance to respond to a discovery motion filed by Mr. Gersten in behalf of GWS in early June. The discovery motion, which consisted of 635 interrogatory questions, 274 requests for documents and 60 UFO-related CIA documents attached as exhibits, was irrelevant to the original complaint and the suit, the U.S. Attorney alleged.

A lengthy and rather heated discussion ensued. Gersten and Zechel charged the CIA with improper conduct of its handling of FOIA requests, stating the CIA demanded large sums of money in advance search fees before initiating any searches for documents and would offer no assurances the documents would be found or provided. The GSW representatives also charged the CIA with issuing false statements in its UFO-related FOIA responses, some of which discouraged requesters from taking further action.

During the course of the discussion, the CIA's attorney, Mr. Long, called the suit "harassment," and claimed the CIA's interest in UFOs was limited to a CIA-sponsored panel in 1953; any involvement other than that, he said, was unintentional and unofficial. Mr. Zechel then explained that the purpose of the suit was to establish the CIA could not lawfully withhold or suppress information related to UFOs, vis-a-vis the government's own statements and findings, and that GSW intended to demonstrate the CIA's involvement with UFOs was long-term and one of deep concern.

The informal session was adjourned after an agreement was reached to allow GSW to amend the original complaint to include requests for all UFO-related CIA documents. Later, in the formal court session before U.S. District Court Judge John Pratt, GSW was granted 20 days in which to amend the complaint. The CIA will then have 10 days to respond and determine whether it will continue to claim some of its UFO-related documents must remain classified.

IUR readers have seen an example of the type of memoranda Zechel possesses as noted in the April issue. Obtaining answers to the 635 interrogatory questions would be a UFOlogical victory in itself, pertainig as they do to a wide variety of UFO-related issues—from 1946's Central Intelligence Group (forerunner of the modern CIA), through the Ralph Mayher film incident, the '52 flap, Richard Hall's interview with a CIA Domestic Contact Service agent, the '75 SAC base flap (see the April IUR), the Iranian case (see the January IUR), the CIA infiltration of the Condon Committee in 1967 through the current attitudes of the CIA toward UFOs.

With regard to the interview of Todd Zechel in the May issue, there are two corrections: first, the spelling of Zechel's last name (as shown here); second the words "El Paso" on p. 7, column 3, line 23 should read "Carswell". Furthermore, it was not the intention of the interview to isolate Zechel as the only noteworthy researcher of CIA documents. Brad Sparks of Zechel's group, CAUS, for example, spent 6 years and over $3000 arguing for the declassification of the CIA texts such as the ones quoted in the April issue.

UFO IMPACT: TECHNOLOGY

MAN-MADE "UFO" #1

The Air Force is currently test flying an F-16 research fighter which is a control configured vehicle, or CCV for short. Elevator and rudder control changes are accomplished electronically rather than by mechanical cables and hydraulic lines; two vanes positioned under the cockpit permit the jet to fly sideways *without banking* or move up or down *without changing pitch*. Such computer-assisted CCV jets won't require traditionally large surface areas for flight stability. Any Mach-2 aircraft which can fly "sideways" is bound to be a likely candidate for "UFO" sightings.

MAN-MADE "UFO" #2

It is often assumed that hovering UFOs are performing some type of reconnaisance "spy" mission. That's exactly what this mock-up of a pilotless air vehicle is designed by Short Brothers of England to do—hover and spy. It's three feet in diameter, takes off vertically, beams back TV pictures from war zones, flies for 3 hours at 150 m.p.h. and lands in a net.

UFO IMPACT: THE LAW

POLICEMAN LOSES JOB OVER UFO CHASE

Gary Linnevold, a 23-year old Calmar, Iowa policeman, was fired from his job and denied unemployment benefits as a result of a pursuit of a UFO that carried him seven miles northeast of town at speeds up to 90 m.p.h. Prior to the chase, Linnevold had been warned about leaving the city limits with his police car by the mayor and the city council. According to members of the police department, the officer had been writing traffic tickets in other cities outside the one employing him.

The UFO "incident" took place on February 7 of this year between 1 and 2 AM. Linnevold, who had reportedly been the subject of practical jokes by a group of highway patrolmen, was informed by them that a UFO was "due" to fly over the small town of Calmar the next day. Linnevold asserts that their practical joke backfired on them because a "real" arc-shaped UFO with red lights on both sides flew over the town at the appointed time. The officer's claim was

regarded as foundationless by the Calmar city officials, and they fired him for "misconduct" in disobeying his employer's directives to stop leaving the city limits in the police car while on duty.

UFO IMPACT: HUMAN BEHAVIOR

UFOs AND ANGELS: EQUALLY CREDIBLE, SAY AMERICANS

In the last issue of IUR, we discussed the results of the third Gallup Poll on UFOs for 1978. Despite the 2% drop in the number of adult Americans who claimed to have seen something they believed to be a UFO, the number of people who believe in the reality of the UFO phenomenon in this country has performed another increase to a new high of 57%. Gallup also conducted a similar survey on the paranormal last May as well. The results can be used to place the UFO belief percentage in a more meaningful social context. A total of 1508 adult Americans in 300 "scientifically selected" locations were asked if they "believed" in the following "paranormal" subjects:

UFOs	57%
Angels	54%
ESP	51%
Devils	39%
Precognition	37%
Deja Vu	30%
Astrology	29%
Bigfoot	13%
Loch Ness Monster	13%
Ghosts	11%
Witches	10%

Interestingly, in Great Britain, only 27% of the adult populace believes in the reality of UFOs . . . yet 20% believe in ghosts, almost twice as high as the U.S. figure.

The figures for people who claimed that religion played an important role in their lives? Angels—68%, devils—50% and astrology—29% (the same figure as that for people who said religion played little role in their lives, significantly). Young people are far more likely to believe in witches than old people. Westerners accept the existence of Bigfoot ("Sasquatch") twice as readily as the national average. 64% of the college educated believe in ESP.

If 54% of adult Americans believe in angels, why do only 39% of them believe in their devil counterparts? Optimism?

UFO IMPACT: NATURAL SCIENCES

Dear sir:

About two weeks ago, we found an unusual formation of toad stools (about 8 inches across) in a circle 42 feet across. This is in our pasture of native buffalo grass, surrounded by rocky caliche hills. The grass is quite green now due to rains about one month ago. But immediately inside this circle of toadstools is an area about 2 to 3 feet wide of lush, darker blue/green grass. Still buffalo grass, but seemingly highly fertilized. Farther inside this circle, the grass is normal, just like it is outside the circle.

We live in windy, dry western Oklahoma and this type of thing is not normal at all. We had had recent rains though. . . . It is so unusual that we began to suspect (due to the shape and size) that we had perhaps a UFO landing site. But we are not UFO buffs and know nothing of other landings and do not know if this type of thing has been found before in connection with UFOs.

Our county agent has suggested that it could be an Indian Burial Ground. He is studying soil samples to see if he can determine what has caused the lush growth. The soil inside this circle of grass is extremely soft while a shovel will hardly go in the ground just outside the toadstools. The civil defense director at Woodward has run a Geiger counter over this area and has got no reading on radioactivity.

The circle is not entirely round, sort of oblong with a curved-in place at only one place. . . . The grass right inside the toadstools is starting to look burnt now and the toadstools are starting to curl under and dry up. My husband said to add that this land has been in the family for over 50 years. My father-in-law (who is 75 years old) says as long as he has owned the place no building of any kind, no silo or tank has ever sat here.

We are sending these pictures and would like to hear from you to see if it is possible that we have a landing site.

Mrs. Leo Long
May, Oklahoma

Your ring has all the earmarks of a fungus growth called "fairy ring". To quote from Shurtleff and Randell's book, LAWN DISEASES AND PESTS:

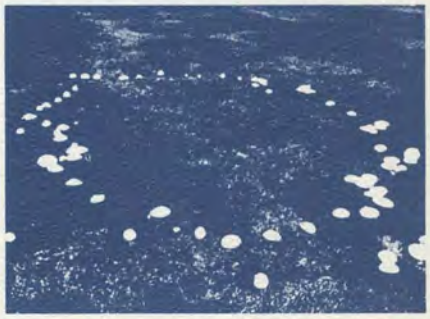
"Fairy rings usually appear as circles or arcs of dark green, fast-growing grass. A ring of thin, dead or dormant grass may develop both inside and outside this circle. . . . Fairy rings vary from a few inches to 50 feet or more in diameter. . . . In mild weather, following rains or heavy sprinkling, large numbers of mushrooms may suddenly appear in the circle outlining the fairy ring. The rings enlarge each year from a few inches to 2 feet or more.

Growth of fairy ring fungi starts with a germinating spore or bits of fungus growth at a central point and continues outward equally in all directions. The fungus growth throughout the soil, sometimes to a depth of a foot or more. . . .

The lush, dark green grass of a fairy ring is due to the increased amount of nitrogen made available to the grass roots by the fungus as it breaks down organic matter in the soil. The ring of brown "dormant" grass is caused primarily by temporary exhaustion of soil water and possibly nutrients. . . . If you dig deeply into this area with a trowel, you will see the white, felt-like growth of the fairy ring fungus."

It is surprising that the county agent did not recognize this fairly common growth. You should also be warned that a competent examination of such large white mushrooms may reveal them to be the deadly poisonous Lepiota morgani, *so be cautious.*

Compare this photo by Mrs. Long . . .



. . . with this photo from Shurtleff and Randall of a fairy ring with mushrooms.

SPECIAL IUR REPORT

by Allan Hendry

Sketch drawn by Ray Thomas of the UFO he claimed he saw with his wife—the sketch was done while the UFO allegedly sat on the ground 20 feet from their car

CASE #3-7-13: IUR TAKES ON ITS FIRST "MEN IN BLACK" CASE, AND "WINS" ONE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following adventure might be called a "UFO whodunit". It has everything: *MIBs, a Close Encounter, intrigue, animal reaction and death, EM effects, Air Force cover-up, the law, the media—and a general sense of madness. UFO investigators can learn much from this detailed investigation, which I predict will become a classic. Left unsolved is the reason why it all happened. IUR invites the comments of our readers.* Dr. J. Allen Hynek

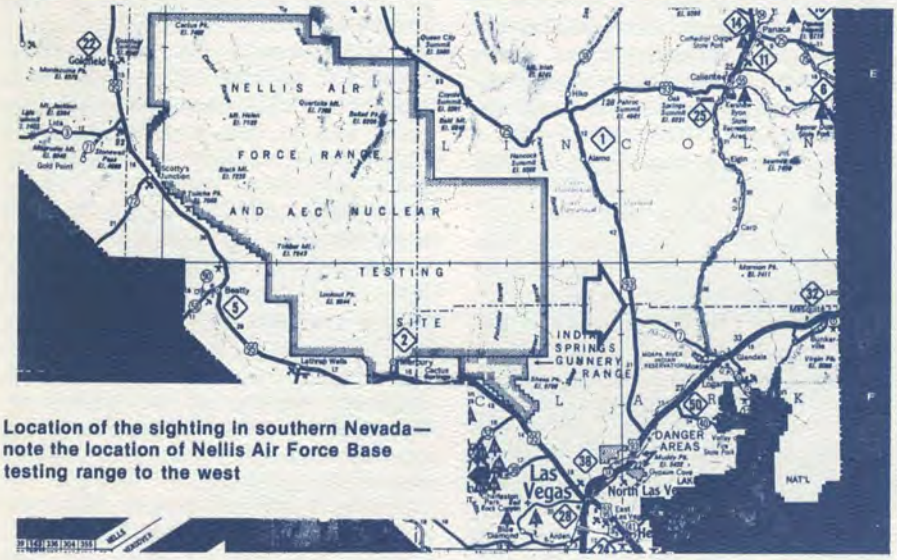
This remarkable chain of events began with a phone call from Roy Thomas, a 29-year old dog trainer and security guard. Thomas also told IUR that he had a private pilot's license and was in the Marines for 6 years. Thomas was given the Center for UFO Studies' phone number when he called a late night disc jockey for advice. I spoke with him on the phone on Tuesday, May 23, two days after the event. Thomas related a story that involved his wife Cathy, a 19-year old secretary, driving southbound with him toward Las Vegas from the small Nevada town of Alamo. At 3:15 AM, against a clear moonlit sky, the Thomases watched what they were sure was an airplane crashing down onto the highway in the distance. When the couple overtook the object, it had safely landed on the stony desert ground about 20 feet off the highway. It became clear, Thomas asserted, that the craft was nothing ordinary. Spanning 35 feet or so in diameter, the UFO possessed a brushed aluminum texture, shiny dark blue landing legs and, most striking of all, two-foot long letters on the dome that said "TLK" or possibly "TLE". The saucer was apparently devoid of seams or lights, yet the central underside of the craft illuminated the ground below it. No sound could be heard, yet a low throbbing was allegedly "felt"; an odor like "burning cotton insulation on wire" was described by Mr. Thomas. Stepping out of the car, the Thomases felt a strange tingling sensation on the exposed portions of their skin . . . face, neck, and hands. Cathy never got closer than 15 feet away from the UFO, but her husband walked within 5 feet of it. It was his intention to touch the surface of the machine, but the tingling sensation increased unpleasantly over his whole body the closer he approached, so he backed away. The Thomases did not have a loaded camera on hand, so Mr. Thomas drew the sketch presented here in his car while the event took place. According to Thomas, the UFO remained on the ground for 15 to 20 minutes. While they were in its presence, their watches both behaved crazily; Ray asserted that the digital displays flashed intermittently without pressing the time button. By the time they left the area, the calendar date of both watches had advanced by two days, bringing to mind the Chilean case noted in a previous issue of IUR where a soldier's watch had allegedly been advanced five days (as well as the beard growth on his face) after close exposure to a UFO in that country. No difficulty was experienced with their car, however. Another significant event: a third witness to the UFO incident refused to leave the car when called by Ray—Duke, a 3-year old German shepherd trained by Thomas as an attack dog. Yet Duke ignored his master, whining and moaning as it hid behind the back seat, and covered its ears with its paws. Finally, the low throbbing increased, the legs retracted, the glow under the UFO increased until the whole metallic surface seemed to reflect it and the craft began a low horizontal run over the desert for about 500 yards. Climbing upwards at a 45-degree angle, the UFO flew smoothly over the mountains to the north, fading from view at a steep angle. Total flight time: around 1 to 3 minutes. Total sighting duration: around 16 to 23 minutes. Shaken, the couple drove the remaining 50 miles along Highway 93 to their Las Vegas home. Ray thomas said he was uncertain whom he should call, so he phoned Nellis Air Force Base and a radio station to ask for advice. Once home, he noted that his dog was acting very listless and was not displaying its normal playfulness.

To check Thomas' claim that he had called the station, an initial call was placed to the announcer in question, Jack Garrett of KBMI. He confirmed that Thomas had indeed called him. I wondered if Thomas chose to call a radio station to seek personal publicity. Garrett felt that this wasn't the case, noting that he sounded genuinely shaken. Garrett referred him to the Center for UFO Studies' Illinois office.

TOP SECRET AIRCRAFT?

My impression on that first day? Two witnesses, not just one, apparently agreed that this event took place. Ray Thomas sounded sincere on the phone, and expressed willingness to take a polygraph test; his only motive seemingly was curiosity about the nature of the UFO. What about those all-too-earthly letters on

the dome, "TLK"? Did this mean that this particular UFO was one of those legendary "experimental aircraft", that highly-abused blanket solution for all UFO sightings? I asked Thomas if the Roman characters could have merely been markings that resembled letters in the dark? He didn't think so. Furthermore, the eastern border of a huge tract of land designated as a testing range for Nellis Air Force Base and the Department of Energy lay just 20 miles away from the UFO landing site. Could a saucer-shaped craft with neither visible nor audible means of propulsion really have been developed by the U.S. military and inadvertently been regarded as a UFO on this night?



Location of the sighting in southern Nevada—note the location of Nellis Air Force Base testing range to the west

SEARCHING FOR DATA

What steps could be taken to pursue such a sighting? I contacted McCarran International Airport and Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas as well as the Los Angeles Air Route Traffic Control Center which oversees that testing range flight area; none of the facilities expressed awareness of any unusual "traffic" . . . yet this would be the expected reaction if the "craft" really possessed the highly advanced propulsion system described. Ray Thomas said that the three landing legs left impressions in the sand, but the high speed winds that area suffered the next day was sure to obscure any prints. Some clever ideas were proposed by California geophysicist Durk Pearson. The fact that the witnesses felt a tingling sensation on the *exposed* parts of their bodies (rather than the covered) coupled with the dog's action of covering its ears and cowering suggested to Pearson that ultrasonics might be at stake. The fact that Mrs. Thomas experienced a headache (as a function of ear canal tightening?) when her husband didn't (women generally having superior high frequency hearing than men of the same age) more tenuously supported this, too. A careful audiometer examination of Mrs. Thomas seemed in order. Then there were the watches that misbehaved. Pearson said that it was already known that such devices would malfunction in the manner described by Thomas if subjected to strong electromagnetic fields. Indeed, aerospace equipment is routinely subjected to electromagnetic compatibility testing to insure that such equipment will function properly. Hopefully, some aerospace firm or even Kirtland Air Force Base would be willing to subject the watches to AC and DC fields to determine the lower field strength limit necessary to trigger the malfunctioning of the two digital watches.

Nor was it necessary to have sand samples from the landing site to perform thermoluminescence tests, which can establish whether the area was subjected to heat or ionizing radiation. Soil from the cuffs of unwashed clothing, certain jewelry and clothing buttons, even drilled samples from the Thomases' teeth could be utilized for such testing. The real difficulty here is the lack of control to show that any effects noted weren't caused by exposure to heat or radiation prior to the UFO encounter. Certain blood tests could be performed to determine exposure to even low levels of ionizing radiation. Assuming that this *was* a secret experimental craft for once, would sufficient documentation on IUR's part elicit official confirmation?

A CASUALITY

The value of biological investigation became mandatory the next day (Wednesday, May 24th) when Thomas called to say that the dog died during the night after a three-day period of listlessness seemingly attributed to its exposure to the UFO. The German Shepherd had been taken to a local vet for an autopsy; Ray Thomas noted that this vet was a friend who had tended to the dog's needs since it was a puppy. When Ray told the vet about the UFO experience, the vet allegedly became very hedgy and made Thomas promise he would not be involved in any UFO investigation as he "valued his business reputation." All that was desired here, though, was a comprehensive write-up of the gross autopsy. Was there any sign of death by exposure to ultrasonics? Under these circumstances, there could be damage to the inner ear, including rupture of its parts. Death could be caused by cerebral hemorrhage, ischemia (blockage) or thrombosis (dislodged clots) via ultrasonics. The heart could have been affected via a coronary thrombosis or panic caused by the ultrasonic exposure. Were torn-up blood vessels (hematomas) present? Chances were that a gross autopsy might not reveal an unusual cause of death, so Dr. Richard Haines of NASA/Ames secured information for me to be supplied to the anonymous vet on the proper sampling and preservation of vital tissues to be examined later at leisure. If more than two days elapses following an animal's death, an autopsy becomes significantly less meaningful, a problem plaguing serious inquiry into the cattle mutilation issue. So IUR was prepared to fly in a veterinary pathologist from Tennessee who specializes in unusual environmental influences on animals who had previously volunteered his services to us. Ray Thomas claimed that the dog had never exhibited any health problems before the sighting and, though energetic, was not high-strung. Thus, the biggest question: if the dog's death was UFO-related, why were the Thomases essentially unaffected when they approached the UFO more closely than Duke, who was 20 feet away in the car, looking through the open window? The Thomases didn't notice any "ticking" noises from their stomachs; such visceral noises are sometimes associated with exposure to ultrasonics, according to Durk Pearson. It was suggested that the Thomases feel the output of a small ultrasonic cleaner (such as jewelers and dentists use) with their fingers to

see if the known but harmless tingling effect was subjectively similar in nature to the sensation they felt near the UFO.

ENTER THE "MEN IN BLACK" (MIB)

Then on Thursday, May 25th, the incident took its most dramatic turn, with all biological concerns suddenly becoming academic. Thomas indicated that at 11:30 PM the night before, two men dressed in civilian suits, blue and maroon respectively, knocked on the door and proffered Air Force identification cards. Thomas said he had time to read only the name of the man who did all the talking, Major Painter. He did not catch the first name, but assumed that they were from nearby Nellis Air Force Base. The men indicated that they knew all about the UFO episode and produced papers for Ray Thomas to sign, granting the Air Force permission to take the dead body of their dog from the veterinarian. Ray recalled that he had called Nellis Air Force Base the day of the sighting, but he wasn't taken seriously and the dog was not even mentioned, so he asked how they found out about it; the men answered enigmatically, "we just know". Ray then made it clear that the dog was special to his wife, that she wanted to bury it out of state in Nebraska and that it was their private property. The men left, stating that they would get the dog under any circumstances. Thomas learned that Thursday morning that the officers succeeded in finding his vet's house, woke him up around midnight and harassed him out of the dog's body, stressing the same thing they told Thomas; that "national security" was at stake in the matter.

While Ray was telling me this on the phone, his wife Cathy was supposedly out at Nellis on her own to complain about their treatment, despite Ray's attempts to dissuade her from going, saying it was "hopeless to deal with the Government." Ray said she intended to "scream like a Banshee" in order to get their dog back. Indeed, he was getting worried that he hadn't heard from her yet. Suddenly the thrust of the whole case had become legal/political; I was advising Ray that he should contact the District Attorney's office or the Attorney General in Nevada, sure that the law prohibited a vet from the disposing of a pet's body without the owner's permission. I wanted him to call back with whatever news was gleaned from the Air Force by his wife. The whole day went by without a call. Finally at night I reached his wife Cathy alone, with Ray out. When I acknowledged that she must have had quite a day, she acted puzzled. When I asked her what transpired at the base, she hedged, stressing how upset she was about the loss of the dog, Duke. When I pushed her for the names or ranks of the base personnel with whom she spoke, as well as what they told her, she "conceded" that she had driven to the base *with her husband Ray.* When they got there, she "chickened out", too upset about the situation to handle it, and stayed in the car while Ray went in and did the talking. I asked what they told *him*, and she replied that he "didn't talk much about it". This was all, of course, a noteworthy inconsistency.

The next day, Friday the 27th, Ray claimed that the vet threatened to sue him if he pressed the matter of the dog's death further. I assured Ray that he was entitled to know, since he paid the vet for the autopsy. All that he could glean from the vet was that there was "no known cause of death", that the dog "just up and died". I wanted to talk with the vet to find out what his examination entailed, but Ray refused to give me his name for fear of legal trouble. Paradoxically, Ray wanted answers furiously and spoke in round terms of his own legal defense; however, he had not yet called the D.A.'s office. Now since Dr. Hynek was flying to Anaheim, California the next day, it would be easy for him to stop off in Las Vegas and meet with the Thomases. I proposed this to Ray, and he agreed to pick up Dr. Hynek at the airport. I assured Ray that Dr. Hynek would help him initiate legal proceedings into the retrieval of his dog. Meanwhile, I gave Ray a list of the various possible ultrasonic causes of death to read to his "mystery vet" in the hope that he would tell Ray.

Disturbingly, Ray called back at 1:30 in the afternoon. The Air Force "MIB"-types had made a second visit to his apartment to warn him that if he continued to interrogate the vet as the the whereabouts of the dog, he would be arrested, his wife would be hurt, and so on. Ray told them to get out (without getting a closer look at their identification cards). Now he was scared to proceed with *any* investigation. Fearing that this was the last time I would hear from him, I asked if now he did not want to meet Dr. Hynek the next day; Ray suddenly found courage and asserted that he would, that he would not be pushed around.

Still, that episode was the second disturbing feature to crop up. It was almost as if Ray himself had developed a convenient *deus ex machina* to save him from having to take real legal action to have his dog returned. The contradictory story from his wife remained as such, since Ray was still acting as if she went in to Nellis Air Force Base herself and "didn't tell *him* much about it". Thus, the time had come to further check out their claims. I called the base locator service at Nellis and asked for Major Painter; no such person existed there. Ironically, one member of the Center for UFO Studies scientific board predicted in advance that "Major Painter" would not be "Air Force" at all. This case was similar to several others dating back to the 'fifties wherein individuals posing as members of the Air Force and other government agencies would allegedly confiscate UFO films and such from the homes of witnesses, only for the witness to discover later that no such person existed at that agency . . . the evidence was gone for good. Indeed, this situation became such a problem that a statement was once issued to Air Force bases calling for any information on the impersonation of officers in UFO investigations. A suggestion was offered that Painter and his aide were mysterious elements indigenous to the UFO phenomenon itself. Yet I also feared a hoax at this time as a prospect worthy of consideration. Hynek would see them personally the next day, though ; that, presumably, would clarify things.

SUSPECT TESTIMONY

Indeed, Hynek returned with four hours of recorded conversation and photos of the landing site confidently relocated by Ray Thomas . . . and they served only to support the idea that we were being presented falsehoods. The contradictions started accumulating:

- Ray told me that the vet found no cause of death; when he spoke to Hynek the next day, however, the dog *had* a cause of death: "cerebral something-or-other . . . it was a long word"—one that I realized / had supplied to Ray, who now seemed to be embellishing his story with it.
- I told Ray that the only way the "Air Force officers" could have found out both about the dog and the location of his vet (there are 40 of them in Las Vegas) was if the *vet* had called them in. As of the day before Hynek's visit, Ray did not know how the "Air Force" found out. The next day, he was telling Hynek that the vet *acknowledged* calling in the Air Force . . . even though he hadn't spoken to the vet since (this also, for the moment, diminished the importance of the "paranormal" school

of thought).

• Ray and Cathy could not agree on the dates of these events that had just transpired. Cathy acted confident that the UFO was sighted on the Sunday of the week previous to the Sunday that Ray asserted. Meanwhile, Ray compressed the action of the previous week as follows: UFO on the Sunday (May 21), the dog's death on Monday (even though it was "still alive" when I spoke to him on the Tuesday!), the "MIB" visit on Tuesday and the discovery that the dog was given to them on Wednesday morning. He also had the second MIB visit take place at night like the first one . . . yet he had called me at 1:30 in the afternoon *on the day before* to say that the Air Force types had just left "five minutes ago".

• Cathy Thomas said she had to press the button of her watch to see the time, in conflict with the "hands off" observation established for both watches by Ray.

• Worst of all was the performance of Ray and Cathy trying to conform to each other on the important issue of *who* went to Nellis Air Force Base to complain. Hynek had Cathy temporarily alone at one point and asked her if she went to the base. Cathy clearly says, "I didn't". Dr. Hynek stressed the point, "you say you did or you didn't?" Cathy then says, "*I don't know*" and beckons for her husband to rejoin them asking, "Honey, did you call Nellis Air Force Base to complain about the dog?" Ray returns and said yes, that he did go. Not knowing what had just been established by his wife to Hynek, our good Doctor asked Ray whether this was during or after the time that his wife went there. "We went separately" Ray said; his wife agreed.

Both Ray and Cathy struck Hynek as being completely sincere in their self-presentations. A week had elapsed and neither party showed any of the stereotyped motives for perpetrating a hoax; the Thomases dealt exclusively with Hynek and myself and had not sought publicity or money. Hynek examined the area of the alleged landing with the Thomases early Sunday morning, May 28. Ray claimed he could relocate the exact spot on the monotonous desert terrain because he noted the odometer setting up to the first highway junction in their trip. He had Hynek photograph what clearly looked like two footprints in the stony sand which Ray felt might have been implicated in the sighting (though unwitnessed by him at the time). Yet if these shallow footprints survived intact for a week in the desert, where were the three, circular *1½-inch deep*, landing leg imprints he claimed he saw? Why weren't the deepest prints in clear evidence? Hynek also brought back the two digital watches for testing. Since they were wedding gifts (and to prove *we* weren't "confiscators"), he left behind one hundred dollars in traveller's checks to cover them. One last avenue of interest: Ray claimed that since the sighting, he had been plagued with dreams about "flying saucers", something that had never happened to him before. In the dreams, he met an old wrinkled man, the occupant of the "TLK" craft who communicated to Ray that their intentions were "good". Was Ray's subconscious hinting to him that his conscious mind had lost track of some memory of the UFO event? Could hypnotic regression reveal more information about the event from his subconscious mind, as suggested in previous regressions of UFO "abductees"?

Ray and Cathy Thomas standing at the alleged landing site

What about the appearances of the "MIB" visitors? Ray described them as being very average looking, the Major being somewhat heavier than his companion. The Major wore a black suit with a striped shirt; the other man wore a blue suit with a white shirt and possibly a blue tie. Both sported short haircuts. Ray watched them leave in a mid-sized car that sported the lettering, "For Air Force Use Only" on its side.

THE WITNESS SCARES THE "MIB"

During the next week, I tried to validate the visit of the Thomases, either or both of them, to Nellis Air Force Base. A sympathetic Sgt. Speights at the Public Information Office of Nellis said that all civilian visitors to the base must sign in, leave driver's license numbers, carry a pass and turn it in on the way out. This sergeant checked the visitor's log for the entire second half of the month for me, and said that there was no sign of any visit by a Ray or Cathy Thomas. Of course, this absence of evidence would still be consistent with an Air Force cover-up of a "real" harassment campaign of the Thomases. Further talks with Ray revealed that they were getting threatening phone calls in the night, warning them not to cooperate further with the Center for UFO Studies. This culminated in a *third* visit by Painter and company. Following my recommendations, Ray insisted upon seeing their identification cards more carefully (to be followed by calling their "superior officer"—not at any number they might give him, but at the *real* number for the alleged base); they rudely asserted that they didn't have to, that their presence was good enough. They expressed awareness of Hynek's visit to the Thomases, which raised questions of phone-tapping (or in the paranormal school, mind-reading). Ray asked them why they wanted the dog's body in the first place. Painter replied that they wanted to check on "unforeseen side effects". This seemed to suggest that the "UFO" *belonged* to the Air Force, if the premise that the vet called in the Air Force was true. Yet why wouldn't they carry out controlled secret experiments on their own instead of taking the risk of harassing two civilians? Ray claimed that he did something unprecedented in the annals of MIB-style harassments: *he* pulled a gun on *them* and told them to stay put while he called the police. The MIB turned and started to run for it. Thomas lunged after Painter and hit him with his fist. The "officer" looked surprised, according to Ray, but wasn't fazed by the blow in the least, yet Ray claimed he skinned his knuckles on him. The men continued to run away.

If these repeated MIB visits were truly taking place, this would be a perfect case to try out an idea by Jacques Vallee that regards UFO activities as a "control system", wherein performances like these are being displayed for purposes of social manipulation. Vallee's procedure then would be to learn more about the UFO phenomenon by manipulating it in return to see what happens. In this case, it would take the form of making the Thomases overtly defy their warning not to investigate the matter further . . . say, telling the newspapers. Then we would wait for the predictable appearance of Painter (who was becoming long on threats and short on action) and . . . club him over the head and tie him up, I suppose.

It was at this time that an attorney in Bloomington, Indiana agreed to offer the Thomases legal aid on an expenses-only basis. After reviewing

the information we had collected so far, the attorney adopted the confident conclusion that the Thomases were the victims of Big Government Harassment, and wanted to defend them from it and try to obtain an injunction against the Air Force men disposing of the dog's body (assuming they already hadn't). The key issue to the attorney was obtaining the name of the vet and continuing from there to the Air Force people the vet allegedly called.

THREAT PREDICTION FULFILLED

Then the event I feared the most happened. The local news media found out about the story and called the Thomases for details to run an article on it. I called Ray Thomas to find out how Skip Denoff of the Las Vegas REVIEW JOURNAL could possibly have found out about it. Ray morosely replied that he had no idea. He stressed that he had no desire for publicity, for he had nothing to gain from it. Indeed, he feared that he would lose his job.

By the next day, Friday, June 9, Ray *had* lost his job before any UFO publicity even occurred. The reason, according to Ray's boss where he was a security guard? Ray (who had only been on the job for two weeks) supposedly called in to say that his car was stolen and that he wouldn't be coming to work. The next day a woman called identifying herself as Cathy Thomas to say that her husband wouldn't be coming to work because he was drunk and was "thinking of killing himself"(!). Suddenly, the original idea of the CUFOS scientific member that all of this was some strange form of psychological warfare was the only logical explanation for the whole case. Why would any wife in her right mind call a husband's boss and say such outrageous things, guaranteed to get him fired? It was suggested here that Ray had been distracted by the harassment of his car being stolen while a woman among the MIB group impersonated Mrs. Thomas to insure the firing of her husband. Add to this the deliberate instigation of undesired publicity; it truly seemed as if the threat of the "Air Force officers" was coming to pass, and the entire affair suddenly took on an air of deadly seriousness. Indeed, it will come to pass at the end of this tale that Ray will be picked up and arrested . . . but not for the reasons the MIB allegedly threatened.

THE DENOUEMENT

Things started falling apart fast once I called the reporter, who turned out to be one of my best sources of information. He revealed that he found out about the case when he was called by a Mr. Brad Steele, who professed to be a friend of Ray Thomas'. Steele summarized the case for the reporter and told him to get in touch with Ray for more details. Bizarrely, Steele claimed he didn't know his "friend's" (Ray's) number, but he left his own.

I recognized it immediatly as the Thomas' phone number! I'd certainly used it enough by then.

I told Ray that I "found out" how his story was related to the press. He claimed that he, too, had heard from his friend, Steele, that he was the source of the reporter's knowledge. Unaccounted for here was the reporter's claim that Ray willingly told him the whole story over the phone. Another tidbit provided by the reporter: when Ray claimed that his car had been stolen, a check was made with the police department, who received no complaint from Thomas in a full day after the call to his boss. A contact phoned Ray Thomas without identifying himself —merely asserting that he was calling from the Metro police—and that he understood that Thomas' car was stolen. Thomas disavowed this.

Curious to know whether Ray was telling the truth about his desire to avoid publicity, I had an associate call Ray and claim to be a journalist with the Associated Press (AP) in Washington. He explained to Ray that they had been tipped off about the developing story by their "man" in Las Vegas, and invited Ray to relate the details to him. Ray did so —completely—for over a half an hour of recorded conversation. He even claimed that our attorney knew who the veterinarian was! Thus, Ray was not resistant to personal publicity as he had claimed after all.

Just as things seemed bleak for the whole case, Ray suddenly strengthened it. Our volunteer attorney spoke with Ray over the phone and told him that he would help Ray IF, and only if, Ray promised to take him to the vet. Ray promised he would, and plane reservations for the attorney were underway. Just what the actual fate of the case was going to be at this point was anybody's guess.

Once again, as if by magical convenience, Ray claimed that his apartment had been ransacked, apparently as a gesture to prevent him from proceeding further with any investigation. Finally, he asserted he couldn't bear up against this kind of assault any longer. He chose not to see the attorney and wanted to discontinue any more activity; I was, however, invited to call on him in the future.

It was Cathy Thomas who called us, instead. Shortly after this "final" exchange, Ray was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated. Cathy wanted to know if the attorney we were going to send out could provide them with legal defense. A call to the police department revealed that this was hardly necessary; Ray was being held on a bench warrant for his failure to pay over four hundred dollars in back fines for two previous accidents. He would be released as soon as this sum was paid. We explained to Cathy that we sensed that she always wanted an opportunity to discuss this whole affair all alone, without Ray being there. In truth, Hynek and I had no idea if this was the case, but we went fishing . . . and it worked. Dr. Hynek read her a long list of all the contradictions that had been amassed thus far, and called for Cathy to level with us. Cathy asserted that she had only gone along with her husband on the following points because she was afraid to disagree with him:

- The Air Force MIB: no such visits took place nor was the apartment ransacked. Cathy felt that the motive for Ray making up such stories, to her surprise, was for personal aggrandizement.
- Nellis Air Force Base: neither of them visited it; even the reporter checked with his own contacts in the PIO office, telling them that if anything secret was going on, he wouldn't "burn them". All five of them disavowed that anything was going on.
- Brad Steele: Cathy revealed that "Brad Steele" is a name that her husband has used in the past to obtain information over the phone. In other words, Ray schemed to secure his own publicity in the hope that no one else would find out.
- The veterinarian: the dog had never been taken to one before after all. When the dog died the *day after* the UFO experience (according to Cathy), Ray took it out, telling her he was going to a vet. She does not now believe that he did.
- Amazingly, it *was* Cathy who called Ray's boss and said the things she did. While her judgment may have been poor, it was her way of trying to straighten out the *false* story provided by Ray about the "stolen" car. The boss fired Ray for job-related reasons. Ray tried to claim that he was fired because the reporter kept calling him at work about the UFO. The reporter said the only call he placed to Ray's place of business was the one to his boss

after Ray was fired.

Indeed, Cathy Thomas *asserted that* none *of the events had taken place at all to her knowledge as claimed . . .* except for the original sighting and the immediate death of their dog. This was—and still is—the stickiest aspect of this whole messy episode. Here was Mrs. Thomas willing to admit that everything from the MIB on was a hoax; yet she pleaded that *she* wasn't lying, at least, about the original UFO: digital watches, "TLK" and all. If it hadn't happened, why would she cling to this last portion of the story? As a review of our taped conversation with her revealed, she sounded damned convincing.

Having said this, it should also be noted that she performed equally sincerely when (accompanied by her husband), she pleaded to me that they weren't lying about all the *other* ancillary events to the sighting. Furthermore, a monetary motive could be ascribed to Cathy, albeit a petty one: with Ray in jail, the car impounded and no ready cash to release either, she called to ask if she could cash Dr. Hynek's travellers' checks for use as a loan. As if that wasn't overstepping the bounds of propriety, when she thought (briefly) that the checks couldn't be cashed, she wanted Hynek to write her a fresh check and send it to her . . . not from family or friends but from a relative stranger in Illinois. Consequently, it could be argued (tenuously) that she clung to the UFO sighting to maintain our involvement . . . and resources . . . while her husband was in jail. The *hard* reason I cannot believe Cathy on the veracity of the original sighting is this: a second call to the disc jockey (that Ray originally called for advice) revealed that the time of the Thomases' call was at 1 AM, Las Vegas time, predating the stated time of the sighting by over two hours! The disc jockey was certain of the time since his show started at midnight. How did Cathy account for this inconsistency? She tried to claim that *this* call was made by Ray based on ANOTHER UFO sighting they had experienced PRIOR to the one they had after the call. Yet for all the hours and days and weeks that I had dealt with them by phone and Hynek in person, she had never seen fit to mention it until now, in the midst of this inconsistency. The final blow? I asked her how they could have called the announcer at 1 AM in Las Vegas *when at that time they were supposedly en route from Alamo, Nevada.* She simply had no reply.

IUR learned a good deal more of a personal nature about Ray and Cathy Thomas and the dynamics of their relationship, but it has no bearing on the case or their motives and we have promised the Thomases that this would not be published. However, since Ray promoted his name and story into the papers and attempted to perpetrate a hoax, all other forms of anonymity have been abrogated by them. IUR hopes to insure that no one will take their story as printed in the REVIEW JOURNAL seriously, especially when it appears "safely" in the future, say, through the UFO newsclipping services. We regret, for example, the large number of people who called the Thomases (after the news article appeared) to sympathize with their plight—UFO witnesses who felt *they* weren't believed, either.

IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

As writer Jerome Clark pointed out in a recent IUR, no serious attempts at studying the MIB aspect of the UFO phenomenon have truly been made. In this particular case, we were able to arrive at the solution . . . and it is a valid solution. Many may feel that this case "fell through" or is "garbage" to be discarded, in the hope that a "real" UFO MIB case will come our way in the future. Such disappointment is caused only by an *a priori* assumption (or emotional desire) that UFO MIB cases are SUPPOSED to be caused by a real physical event. Traditionally, the suspected solutions for MIB claims have included "Air Force cover-up", UFOnaut intervention/manipulation and "paranoid delusion". While the motives for the fabrication by Ray Thomas of the MIB visitation are not completely clear, the falsehood is nonetheless confessed. It would be poor inductive reasoning to extrapolate this single event to all other MIB sightings, of course. All that can safely be said is that this case shows that falsehood is indeed a genuine mechanism behind MIB reports to be considered in the future. Such a solution may lack the thrill of more "extra-mundane" speculations, but it is a satisfying one.

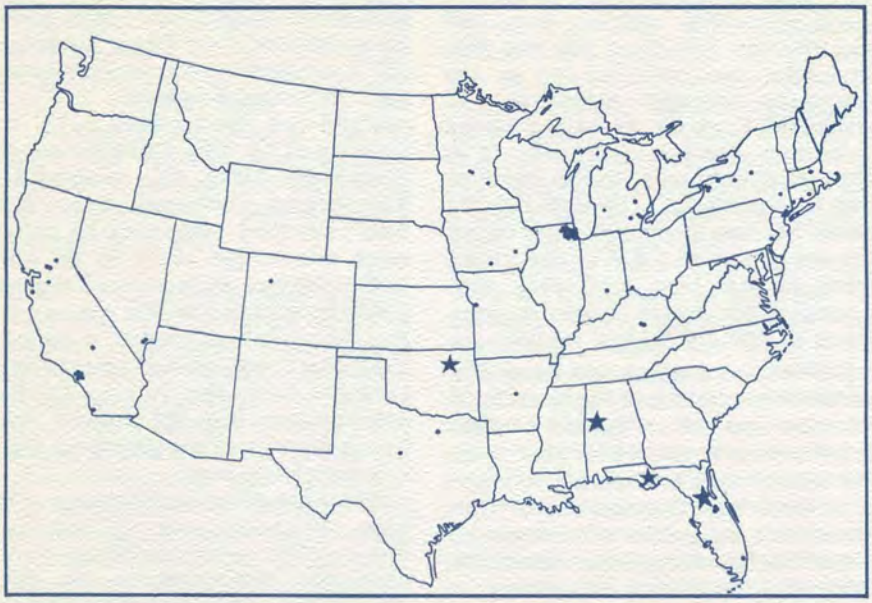
There are other implications in the case, of course, that are obvious. The multiple witness status of the case was demeaned by the same feature that Professor Alvin Lawson has theorized may be the "downfall" of some multiple witness hypnotic regression abductions: the presence of a "dominating spokesman". The value of any examination of physical traces still continues to depend upon the integrity and accuracy of the witnesses' stories. Also, the role of witness sincerity served only to blind both myself and Dr. Hynek to the inconsistencies in the case . . . until they became too numerous to ignore. A less rigorous investigation of this case, a mere cataloguing of witness assertions (even first-hand) would have resulted in an incorrect conclusion. Once again the lesson seems to be that the deepest insights into UFOlogy will probably arise not from a collective superficial overview of a great many cases but the meticulous probing of individual sightings . . . and a great deal of luck.

And to think I was hoping I'd find out what "TLK" stood for . . .

A NOTE ON THE LATE ISSUE:

Due to "growing pains" in IUR's change of mailing services and postage rate combined with the usual higher case load presented by the summer months, we are currently in the process of catching up. We take pride in the quality and comprehensiveness of our publication above all and we know you will feel the wait was worthwhile when our new enlarged issues arrive. As if to make up for the UFO "doldrums" of the past six months, a good number of provocative cases have recently emerged, as well as two new incursions into government involvement in UFOs. So stay tuned - and thank you for your patience.

PROFILE: MAY, 1978



● —IFO ★ —UFO

UFOs include 3-6-39, 3-6-40, 3-7-1, and 3-7-54. Verifications and complete details on these cases are on file and available on request.

The two non-UFO reports received both involve "humanoids" without UFOs seen. The first took place at 1:18 AM on the 23rd of May in Cincinnati, Ohio. A 26-year old graduate student in fine arts was driving her car through downtown Cincinnati on 9th and Central Parkway. She was stopped at the intersection of a well-lit, one-way street when she saw a 5½-foot tall man approaching her. She claimed that he possessed no nose, hair, ears or mouth; he had slit eyes, full length gloves and a black cape. When the light changed, she accelerated away. Puzzled, she called the police who had no additional reports; she also toured the local bars with a sketch but no one else had seen him.

The other quasi-CE III experience began at 3:30 AM when a 29-year old unemployed teacher was awakened in his Richfield, Connecticut home by a buzzing noise. He and his wife looked outside the window to see a "utility crew" working 250 feet away. All of the men turned towards him simultaneously, which startled him. They were wearing silver hard hats, snug body stockings with reflective stripes and glowing discs of light above their eyes (goggles?). Each figure also had his own light source. Present for 10 to 15 minutes, the men finally moved away in slow, jerky motions, disappearing behind a garage in the thickly settled residential area. The next morning, there were no signs of work, marks or wires in the parking area.

The close positioning of Jupiter and trouble-making Venus in the western skies on the 27th and 28th resulted in 15 calls.

IFOs:

Stars and Planets	21
Aircraft	17
Ad Planes	13
Meteors	4
Test Clouds	3
Balloons	3
Clouds	2
Helicopters	2
Ground Lights	1
Satellite	1
Moon	1
Lightning	1

EXCLUSIONS

Unreliable Witnesses	2
Non-UFOs	2
Hoaxes	1

UFOs:

NL	2
RV	1
CE 1	1

Total Number of Reports	78
Average per Day	2.5
Peak Activity (6 cases)	5/26, 5/27, 5/28, 5/31
Total Number of UFOs	4
Total Number of IFOs	69

UFOs: 5.5% **IFOs:** 94.5%

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